

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08382 131537Z
ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8614
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, CSCE, SHUM, PFOR, UR
SUBJECT: US/USSR MARRIAGE BLOCKED BY EXPULSION OF AMERICAN
FIANCE

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO INFORM DEPARTMENT OF RECENT EGREGIOUS SOVIET CSCE VIOLATION WHICH PREVENTED MARRIAGE BETWEEN AMCIT GEORGE VALENTIN SZOTSKOWSKA AND HIS SOVIET FIANCE. SZOTSKOWSKA WAS RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE STUDENT AT PUSHKIN INSTITUTE WHO HELD SOVIET VISA VALID UNTIL JUNE 10. HE INFORMED EMBASSY OF HIS INTENTION TO MARRY IN APRIL AND VISITED ZAGS WITH EMBASSY'S PERMISSION LETTER ON APRIL 6 OR 7. ZAGS GAVE COUPLE MARRIAGE DATE ON JUNE 28, APPROXIMATELY 80 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THEIR APPLICATION (ZAGS MAY BY LAW SET MARRIAGE DATE FROM 30-90 DAYS FROM DATE OF APPLICATION TO MARRY).

2. SINCE ZAGS HAD GIVEN COUPLE MARRIAGE DATE AFTER EXPIRATION DATE OF HIS SOVIET VISA, SZOTSKOWSKA REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ADVICE CONCERNING STEPS HE MIGHT TAKE TO EITHER EXTEND VISA OR HAVE CEREMONY MOVED UP. AT THIS POINT, SZOTSKOWSKA ALSO INFORMED US THAT HIS FIANCEE'S FATHER, REPORTEDLY AN MVD COLONEL UP FOR HIS GENERAL'S STAR, WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO MARRIAGE. CONSOFF SUGGESTED THAT SZOTSKOWSKA AND FIANCEE REQUEST ZAGS TO MOVE UP MARRIAGE DATE AND THAT SZOTSKOWSKA ATTEMPT TO FIND JOB THAT WOULD BRING WITH IT AN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08382 131537Z

EXTENSION OF HIS VISA. COUPLE PERSISTED IN THESE EFFORTS THROUHOUT APRIL AND MAY. AT ONE POINT, CONSOFF REQUESTED THAT SZOTSKOWSKA'S VISA BE EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE AS HIS PERSONAL GUEST, BUT OVR REFUSED THIS REQUEST.

3. WHEN IT APPEARED THAT ALL COUPLE'S PERSONAL EFFORTS HAD FAILED, EMBASSY RAISED PROBLEM IN REPRESENTATION AT MFA

CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION MAY 27 AND FOLLOWED UP JUNE 3.
WHEN THESE REPRESENTATIONS DID NOT RECEIVE A REPLY, EMBASSY
POLITICAL COUNSELOR RAISED PROBLEM WITH MFA USA DIVISION
(FEDOSEYEV) JUNE 6, REITERATING REQUEST THAT SZOTSKOWSKA'S
VISA BE EXTENDED THROUGH 28.

4. ON JUNE 7, MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SUSLIN AND ARTSYBASHEV CALLED IN EMBASSY'S CONSULAR COUNSELOR AND CONSOFF TO RECEIVE NON-PAPER REPLY TO EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS. NON-PAPER (COPY BEING POUCED TO DEPARTMENT) ALLEGED THAT ON MAY 31, SZOTSKOWSKA AND HIS FIANCE HAD ENGAGED IN "IMMORAL ACTS" AT A PUBLIC PLAYGROUND WHERE SOVIET CHILDREN HAD BEEN PLAYING. IT WAS FURTHER ALLEGED THAT THE COUPLE HAD REJECTED ADVICE OF SOVIET BYSTANDERS TO CEASE THEIR ACTIVITIES AT WHICH POINT MILITIA WERE SUMMONED AND AN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED. ACCORDING TO MFA'S NON-PAPER, ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THOSE ENGAGED IN BY SZOTSKOWSKA AND FIANCEE ARE ILLEGAL, AND VIOLATORS MAY BE SEVERELY PUNISHED. HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF PROSECUTING SZOTSKOWSKA, MFA HAD DECIDED TO DENY HIS APPLICATION FOR VISA EXTENSION AND REQUIRE HIM TO LEAVE USSR WITHIN 48 HOURS.

5. CONSOFFS LATER DISCUSSED MFA'S NON-PAPER WITH SZOTSKOWSKA WHO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE AND FIANCE HAD BEEN TAKEN TO MILITIA STATION WHERE SEVERAL "WITNESSES" ALLEGED THAT THEY HAD PUBLICLY ENGAGED IN "IMMORAL ACTS". HE STRONGLY DENIED ENGAGING IN ANY PUBLIC IMMORAL BEHAVIOR AND WROTE STATEMENT (COPY OF WHICH IS BEING POUCED TO DEPT) DENYING MFA'S ALLEGATIONS. WE PROTESTED MFA'S EXPULSION OF SZOTSKOWSKA AT JUNE 8 SESSION OF CONSULAR REVIEW TALKS AND TELEPHONICALLY TO FEDOSEYEV. AT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 08382 131537Z

CONSULAR TALKS, GOROKHOV INSITED THAT ACCURACY OF REPORT BY "COMPETENT ORGANS" COULD NOT BE CHALLENGED AND REITERATED THAT SZOTSKOWSKA WAS LUCKY NOT TO HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENSES. GOROKHOV FURTHER STATED THAT CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF FIANCEE COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. USA DIVISION'S FEDOSEYEV TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT AFFAIR WAS ENTIRELY CONSULAR MATTER AND REFUSED TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN OUR APPEAL FOR RECONSIDERATIOON OF EXPULSION.

6. SZOTSKOWSKA LEFT JUNE 9 FOR HELSINKI BY TRAIN. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, HE TOLD CONSOFF THAT HE HOPES TO RETURN FOR JUNE 28 WEDDING DATA AS MEMBER OF LARGE TOUR GROUP. IF THIS FAILS, HE PLANS TO APPLY FOR SOVIET VISA LATER IN US. WE WARNED HIM THAT, IF HE SUCCEEDED IN RETURNING, SOVIETS MIGHT DECIDE TO HARASS HIM FURTHER, POSSIBLY INCLUDING REVIVAL OF MAY 31 INCIDENT IN FORM OF CRIMINAL CHARGES.

7. INCIDENT DESCRIBED IN MFA'S NON-PAPER WAS CERTAINLY EITHER PROVOCATION FROM BEGINNING OR WAS SEIZED UPON AND BLOWN

OUT OF PROPORTION TO PREVENT MARRIAGE. FIANCEE'S FATHER MAY WELL HAVE BEEN BEHIND DZOTSKOWSKA'S EXPULSION EITHER TO PROTECT HIS OWN CHANCES FOR PROMOTION OR SIMPLY TO PREVENT HIS DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE TO A FOREIGNER. AS MVD COLONEL, HE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO ORGANIZE PROVOCATION TO PREVENT MARRIAGE WHICH HE REPORTEDLY STRONGLY OPPOSED. IF HER FATHER WAS INDEED BEHIND SZOTSKOWSKA'S EXPULSION, GOROKHOV'S THREAT OF LEGAL ACTION AGAINST FIANCEE WOULD APPEAR TO BE HOLLOW. NEVERTHELESS, MARRIAGE OF AN AMCIT TO A SOVIET CITIZEN WAS EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED, FURTHER ILLUSTRATING SOVIET FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS OF CSCE FINAL ACT.

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